

Constructed shortly after the Civil War, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ronkonkoma, New York has stood as a testament to its patrons' religious fervor and tenacity. For a short time following the conclusion of the Civil War, Episcopalians in the area worshipped in a school house until the congregation eagerly decided in June of 1867 to build a church. The church was completed six short months later, and its first service was held on Christmas Eve of 1867. The property for the church, and a sizeable portion of the funds used to construct it, were donated by Welsh Colonel John Henry Puleston, a knight and distinguished Member of Parliament.

Unfortunately, the parish fell on hard times around 1880, when the number of communicants dropped significantly due to a dearth of year-round Protestants in the area. While there were talks about shuttering the church, Reverend Rodney M. Edwards believed the religiosity and love expressed by his parishioners was so resolute that he could not imagine deserting them. Accordingly, the church's ardor attracted more communicants, and the parish began to once again thrive a decade later. Then, in 1920, benefactors joined together to revive and repair the Church in the image of its founders' intentions.

The current St. Mary's Episcopal Church, which was admitted into union with the diocese in 1972, was built with the essence of its predecessor, but with more space to house a growing number of patrons. Today, the rector of the parish is the experienced Reverend Beth O'Callaghan, who leads a congregation of over 200 communicants. This year, the parish remarkably celebrates its 150th anniversary, an apt representation of St. Mary's Episcopal Church's unyielding zeal and devotion.

Mr. Speaker, St. Mary's Episcopal Church's 150th Anniversary is an achievement that serves as a testament to the devotion of the congregation. Their religious zeal cannot be underscored or admired enough, and it is my distinct honor and privilege to represent the church in the First Congressional District of New York.

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER MUELLER

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alexander Mueller, a Merchant Marine Academy Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional district. I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in uniform. Alexander is making an incredible sacrifice for our country and deserves our utmost support for his service. It is with great pleasure that I give him my endorsement to attend this prestigious institution.

Alexander has already begun his service to our nation through his participation in the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. He demonstrated his commitment to public service as an active member of his high school's Student Council and Student Government, and was awarded Academic All State First Team in recognition of his outstanding athletic and academic achievements.

Our nation owes no greater debt of gratitude than to those who fight to protect our freedom

and liberty. I commend Alexander and his family for their commitment. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to Alexander.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Alexander Mueller as an appointee to the Merchant Marine Academy for his commitment to protect and serve our nation.

ABIGAIL PORTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Abigail Porter for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Abigail Porter is a student at Moore Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Abigail Porter is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Abigail Porter for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF T. DWAYNE MCCAY, PH.D.

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Dwayne McCay who currently serves as the President of Florida Institute of Technology. Dr. McCay is a renowned engineer and research scientist who was recently named Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors class of 2016—a highly prestigious professional distinction.

Dwayne McCay grew up in the cotton fields of northeast Arkansas with a passion for literature. In the late 1950's and early 1960's, as the world witnessed space exploration for the first time with the launch of Sputnik, Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, and Astronaut Alan Shepard, Dwayne found himself looking toward the stars like so many youth at that time, including myself. He and his young friends founded a rocket society in 1961—WOMC (Wike, Oldham, McCay and Crowell)—and they had three successful launches of their homemade rockets with McCay acting as the propellant engineer.

Dwayne went on to achieve a Ph.D. in engineering and mathematics from Auburn University. He pursued a career as a research engineer with ARO, Inc., then as a senior research physical scientist with the Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory. He went on to become a senior engineer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, being elevated to branch chief, and later division chief.

Prior to serving as President of F.I.T., Dr. McCay served as Provost and Chief Academic Officer at the Florida Institute of Technology and became Florida Tech's Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) in January 2011. Dr. McCay was previously at The University of Tennessee Space Institute, where he served as Alumni Distinguished Service Professor of Engineering Science and Program Chair of Engineering Science and Mechanics, and was chosen in a national search in 1993 as the chief executive officer for the campus.

He and his wife, Dr. Mary Helen McCay, also an accomplished inventor and engineer, hold 15 joint U.S. patents in the area of metallurgical engineering. Together they have authored approximately 200 technical publications and, in 1998, achieved the national honor from the U.S. Department of Energy's American Museum of Science and Energy for their technological achievements.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Dwayne McCay, as well as Dr. Mary Helen McCay and the dedicated faculty at F.I.T., for their contributions to science and engineering, and for their commitment to inspiring young minds and future scientists of our nation.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAY BEACH AMUSEMENT PARK

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 125th Anniversary of Bay Beach Amusement Park. Bay Beach is an amusement park owned and operated by the City of Green Bay. Bay Beach is the ninth oldest amusement park in the United States. It offers affordable entertainment to visitors across the state of Wisconsin and plays a big role in the city's tourism industry.

Bay Beach was initially established by Mitchell Nejedly. Mr. Nejedly purchased the land and began developing the land for a private beach resort. In 1920, the park's owners donated the entire park and its building to the City of Green Bay with the intent that the land was used for park, playground, and entertainment purposes.

The City of Green Bay expanded and developed Bay Beach in a family-focused destination with an emphasis on affordability for all. Today, it offers 22 distinct attractions, including the Zippin Pippin roller coaster.

On June 10, 2017, Bay Beach will celebrate its 125th Birthday. This park is an asset to the community with a unique history and role in the city for five generations.

RECOGNIZING NOLAN LAUFENBERG

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 12, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nolan Laufenberg, an Air Force Academy Appointee from Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. I believe our greatest assets are America's brave men and women in